(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Increase in maximum allowable FDI

62. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make 76 per cent as the maximum allowable FDI in any sector;

(b) if so, whether the proposal would be considered with retrospective effect or only for future FDI applications; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring in a sunset clause as regards the applicability of Press Note 18 in case of new subsidiaries incorporated for investments pertaining to Research and Development (R&D) activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government reviews FDI policy from time to time. No proposal is pending for decision in respect of new subsidiaries incorporated for Research and Development (R&D) activities.

Reduced rate of interest on Housing Loans

63. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks and financial institutions are giving the benefit of reduced rate of interest on housing loans to its existing as well as new customers;

(b) whether Government are not extending benefit of reduced rate of interest on housing loans to those Government employees who have taken House Building Advance from Government offices at higher rates of interest;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce concept of giving housing loans to its employees on basis of floating rate of interest like nationalised banks and financial institutions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

World Bank aid to fight poverty

64. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has identified India amongst the most needy for poverty aid;

(b) if so, the aid promised by the World Bank; and

(c) the reforms proposed to be taken up to fight poverty with the support of aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) World Bank through International Development Association (IDA) provides concessional credit to member countries for assisting their ongoin developmental efforts including elimination of poverty. India is the largest recipient of IDA credit.

(b) and (c) In the present cycle of IDA, namely IDA-13 (July 2002 to June 2005), appromixately SDR 2 billion is expected to support the developmental efforts. The current India Country Assistance Strategy (2001—2004) of the World Bank Group is consistent with the objectives and the poverty alleviation strategy embodied in the Five Year Plans.

Fraud prone areas in Banks

65. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI and banking sector have identified the common fraud prone areas in banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are Public Sector bank has taken to prevent frauds in these areas so identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The common fraud prone areas as identified by RBI and banking sector are as under :